



**Charter Commission Minutes
Special Meeting
City of Las Vegas Council Chambers
1700 North Grand Avenue
Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Chairman Apodaca called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m.

Roll Call

Present

Commission Chair Apodaca
Commission Vice Chair Salazar
Commissioner Phillip Martinez
Commissioner Ludi
Commissioner Einer

Absent

Commissioner Madrid
Commissioner Matt Martinez

Also Present

Darlene Arguello, City Staff
Mayor Louie Trujillo
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Vice Chair Salazar made a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Ludi and Commissioner Einer seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 6/22/21:

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Ludi made a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Einer seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of 6/29/21:

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Ludi made a motion to approve the minutes.

Vice Chair Salazar seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

One public input was submitted and read into the record by Darlene Arguello. It was submitted via email on July 1, 2021 by Michael Martinez and read as follows:

"This is a suggestion for the charter committee. There seems to be a lot of talk about checking and balancing the power of the mayor, but I haven't heard any talk about checking and balancing the power of the council. If the mayor can't break tie votes or appoint city managers, the powers of the mayor will be virtually dead. Secondly, in the conflict of interest part of the charter, the portion regarding contracts prevents the city from contracting with a city employee or former city employees "spouse or domestic partner". These days, due to the decline in marriage (whether traditional or non-traditional), a person's close family members could easily fall outside of the description of "spouse or domestic partner". Perhaps the charter should prohibit contracting with any "family member" of an employee or former employee (also including elected officials). A "family member" could be broadly defined as spouse, former spouse, domestic partner, former domestic partner, in-laws, co-parents of a child, children, step-children, grandchildren, etc... The broader the better."

Informal discussion:

Commissioner P. Martinez introduced himself and Commission Chair Apodaca and Commissioners welcomed him.

Commission Chair Apodaca stated to Commissioner P. Martinez that he would like to set up a time with him to bring him up to speed with where they are at in the process.

Concern was brought up by Commission Chair Apodaca that the deadline for completion of the Charter Review was quickly approaching.

Commission Chair Apodaca stated for the record that they needed to meet with the City Attorney to get the process going on obtaining independent legal advice and language for the Charter.

Lengthy discussion took place in regards to the insights and recommendations received from the City Councilors and the City Clerk and also went over their previous reviews of the Charter.

Brief discussion was also held on the role of the City Attorney and the Charter review and enforcement.

Discussion was held and Chairman Apodaca raised the question if the City Attorney serves at the pleasure of the Governing Body, would they truly be representative and have an independent voice for the Charter Commission. For this reason, the Commission requested an independent attorney.

Commissioner Ludi talked about the Ethics Committee and enforcement of the Charter. Commissioner Einer talked about corporate compliance and ensuring that the existing statutes and ordinances were created and put into place accordingly to support the sections in the Charter where it calls for them.

Further brief discussion was held as to the failure of previous administration to enact the Campaign and Ethics Committee and also enact the ordinances that go along with the Charter.

There was also discussion of the role of an ombudsman and the benefits of having one. Also brief discussion was held regarding an Ethics Board, the role of and the issue that there has not been one appointed.

Discussion

1. Charter Review - Information and Insights from Mayor Louie Trujillo.

Mayor Louie Trujillo:

Chairman Apodaca briefed Mayor Trujillo on where they were at with the Charter Review.

1. Mayor Trujillo's first recommendation was doing away with the run-off elections and stated that they should be determined by a simple majority. He also expressed his concerns with the fiscal impact that it has on the City. He also elaborated on some previous issues that this process has caused.

Further brief discussion was held in regards to run-off elections.

2. Mayor Trujillo's second suggestion was the number of Councilor's. Mayor Trujillo stated that he believed that the current number of four (4) is not sufficient and that there should at least be two (2) Councilors representing each district. He further elaborated as to why he was recommending this change.

Further brief discussion was held in regards to the number of Councilors increasing and how the City Councilors and the Charter Commission are all on the same page with that recommendation.

3. Mayor Trujillo's third suggestion was preserving the rights of the Mayor with regard to selecting his own cabinet and also continue to be able to select/appoint certain positions within the City. He also stated that the Mayor should have the ability to vote on issues and stated that he believes that it is important for the community to know where he stands on them. He also stated he would like for there to be broadcast voting so the public could see and know where the Governing Body's delegation stands on any issue.

Further lengthy discussion was held in regards to this topic and the Governing Body establishing its own rules and procedures. Discussion was also held in regards to the run-off election and the issues it causes.

4. Mayor Trujillo's next suggestion was the vetting of candidates with background checks and disclosure of conflict of interests. He went on to explain and define what kind of conflicts they would have to disclose.

Further discussion was held regarding this suggestion. Also, Commissioner Ludi briefly spoke more on the suggestion of broadcast voting and allowing the public to know where the Governing Body stood on the issues.

Commissioner Einer spoke on Section 9.03 in the Charter and stated that he didn't believe that there was not an ordinance in place currently and believes that an ordinance could encompass this issue.

Mayor Louie Trujillo stated he believed that there was an ordinance in place on Conflict of Interest. Further lengthy discussion was held.

Discussion was held regarding the Campaign and Ethics Board and also on Section 9.03 Political Activity.

Mayor Louie Trujillo stated that the Charter needs to be looked at in regards to boards, commissions and committees and why do they have to exist and what their function really is if there are departments already functioning in this capacity. Further lengthy discussion was held.

Mayor Louie Trujillo suggested that the Charter should be reviewed on a yearly basis for any amendments or new law that needs to be incorporated.

In discussion prior to the Mayor's presentation, Chairman Apodaca had recommended a three (3) year review of the Charter. Vice Chair Salazar suggested a two (2) year review for elections.

Further lengthy discussion was held.

Mayor Louie Trujillo suggested that the compensation be looked at for the Governing Body. He stated that they should consider a full time position for the Mayor because of the time and

commitment that is invested into the position. He stated that compensation is minimal and is too low.

Chairman Apodaca asked Mayor Trujillo what he thought would be a fair wage. Mayor Trujillo stated he didn't know but said this is too low of a wage to survive on and thus he must maintain a full time job to supplement his income.

The Commission agreed that it should be a full time position and elaborated on their thoughts. Further brief discussion was held.

2. Charter Review – Information and Insights from City Clerk Casandra Fresquez.
Due to the time crunch, City Clerk Fresquez' presentation will be held at a later meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Einer made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner P. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Commission Chair Apodaca

8/17/2022

Date